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"Special Estimates Staff"

Consideration of the organization and operation of the projected "Special Estimates Staff" has been confused by conflicting concepts of its status and functions. It is variously conceived as:

- a. A "Special Branch" within the State Department intelligence structure (but separate from the Office of Research and Intelligence).
- b. A unit organizationally within State, but actually inter-departmental in composition and function.
- c. A unit within the proposed Central Intelligence Agency.

The idea of a separate "Special Branch" is regarded with great mis-giving in the Office of Research and Intelligence. The War and Navy Departments have been insistent that interdepartmental synthesis be accomplished in an interdepartmental agency rather than within the State Department.

The ambiguity of the status and functions of the projected "Special Estimates Staff" is unsound. It should be clarified by the substitution of two distinct units, as follows:

a. A Special Section in the Intelligence Coordination Staff, Office of the Director, O.R.I., the function of which is to provide substantive control over the output of ORI. The Special Section, appropriately manned, might exercise this function with reference to special information available to it.

b. A National Estimates Staff in the proposed Central Intelligence Agency.

The establishment of such a Special Section would:

- a. Afford requisite security to special information
- b. Assure to the Special Section the immediate availability of maximum research facilities, essential to its proper functioning.
- c. Assure that basic research in ORI is conducted with the benefit of all essential information.
- d. Obviate the probability of inconsistency in Department intelligence reporting which would exist if an SES and ORI were issuing separate reports, the latter without full information.

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If and when Congress enacts legislation on the basis of the President's recommendations, the problem would disappear. The departmental operating character of the residual functions of J.I.C. and J.I.S. would then be apparent and presumably would be absorbed by the Armed Forces General Staff, leaving C.I.A. as the sole inter-departmental intelligence agency.